

The War of Artificial Intelligence: The Advancement of Warfare with AI

There were 59 international conflicts in the year 2023, which holds the record as the most conflicts in one year since the Cold War (1991).⁴ Think about how many people could have been saved, and instead how many died because of these horrible conflicts. All of this could have been changed with the support of Artificial Intelligence (AI). These conflicts are messy and full of human mistakes, and although AI can not solve all of these problems it can reduce the amount of chaos caused. This essay will explore the opportunities and challenges of AI incorporated warfare and will describe an action oriented plan to work with AI, creating safer wars.

In the United States of America (USA), one way AI is helping make war safer for soldiers is by sending powerful AI led drones into places no human can go.¹ Autonomous drones can be sent into the deep ocean or even space.¹ This can drastically improve the data brought back to leaders in the USA⁵ for safer and more precise decision making.

Precision is one of the most important components of battle and AI makes it better. AI weapons are “capable of identifying, locking onto, and firing at targets.”³ This will make more intended targets be hit, minimizing the killing of innocent people.

One of the best improvements AI can do in battle is gather additional and more reliable information. AI’s main ability is to gather varied information quickly, so why not do that for battle?⁵ “AI offers human commanders operating in complex and dynamic environments vastly improved situational awareness and decision making tools, allowing more time to make informed decisions with potentially stabilizing effects.”¹ This process can easily help leaders react within seconds.⁵ AI can change the USA for the better in many ways, however it can also change our world for the worse.

It’s known that AI can change USA warfare for the better, but nothing is that simple. AI warfare comes with far more challenges than it first seems on the outside. On the battlefield AI does have the power to prevent deaths, but deaths are also a significant factor that stops most leaders from causing more wars. So less deaths will lead to warfare unfortunately becoming more common, due to less soldiers dying on the battlefield. These more frequent wars will lead to the destruction of land and increased deaths.² This will take a significant toll on the human population.²

Another challenge AI presents is that over time people may overlook its mistakes. In the article, “*AI, Autonomy, and the Risk of Nuclear War*” James Johnson, gives a highly realistic example of what could happen if leaders give AI the ability to make major decisions about warfare in the USA. He describes a scenario where small changes like the simple moving of a satellite's position could be perceived as a threat by AI monitors. This could send the AI system into a frenzy and as a result it could suggest sending a nuclear bomb as a response. This small action might lead to nuclear war because AI inaccurately processed information and overreacted.

Additionally, AI can easily be fooled by the opposing side feeding the system false information or malware that it can't tell apart from real threats. "Motivated adversaries might also use malware to take control, manipulate, or fool the behavior or pattern..."¹ All of this shows how AI should not be trusted unless there is an action oriented plan in place.

I think an action oriented plan that can improve warfare and the USA, is a tedious project of watching and notetaking on AI's information. I believe that the best way to contain AI, so it does not lead us into destructive warfare, is to have AI do what it's best at: collecting and giving information. If AI gathers the information for war and sends it back to leaders in the USA, they can give correct and reasonable thinking that AI is not equipped to do. "For some (such as leaders), human oversight could mean pressing a "go kill" button after an AI weapons unit makes a long chain of black box decisions, (black box is a reference to AI getting data and making decisions without showing the reasoning behind it) without the human understanding or being able to spot errors in the system's logic."² This shows a very likely example of what could happen if AI is allowed to grow into unchecked military control. However, with an appropriate action oriented plan, AI would be coded to only show the information collected within the stated guidelines, and never make any major decisions on its own. In my plan AI will collect all the information, and there would also always be a worker watching the information AI gathers. This worker will give the information to a group of educated people who will create a well thought through decision that can only be accomplished by human minds.

If the USA continues advancing AI in a controlled manner, I believe hundreds of wars will be safer, less brutal, and monitored more effectively. My plan will make the world a safer place by significantly decreasing the negative effects wars have on people. This improves the future because it takes decision making out of the hands of AI to prevent the escalation of unnecessary wars. This will allow humans to do what our minds excel at, which is the ability to deep learn and see through all the information to make a plan, allowing AI to do what it excels at, the ability to collect, sort, and give information. I want people to know that their children will grow up in a world, where war is not everywhere they look, but instead only where it needs to be.

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